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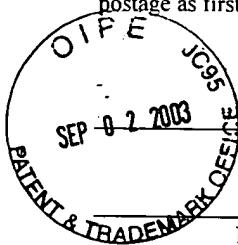
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#15 / Amend D

Our Case No. 7103/205

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Li et al. )  
Serial No. 09/938,056 ) Examiner: George Nguyen  
Filing Date: August 23, 2001 ) Group Art Unit No.: 3723  
For MULTI-STEP POLISHING SYSTEM )  
AND PROCESS OF USING SAME )

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants file the enclosed preliminary amendment in reply to the Office Action dated May 28, 2003 as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.